

Call to Worship. (Elder, Vance)

Psalm 66 'Shout joyfully to God, all the earth; Sing the glory of His name; Make His praise glorious.

Say to God, 'How awesome are Your works! Because of the greatness of Your power Your enemies will give feigned obedience to You. All the earth will worship You, and will sing praises to You; They will sing praises to Your name.'

Come and see the works of God, Who is awesome in His deeds toward the sons of men. He turned the sea into dry land; they passed through the river on foot; there let us rejoice in Him! He rules by His might forever; His eyes keep watch on the nations; Let not the rebellious exalt themselves.

Elder Prayer.

Song 1: Doxology (Anya, piano)

Song 2: God is so Good (Anya, piano)

Announcements/John 21:15-17/Prayer (Elder, Ron)

John 21:15-17 'So when they had finished breakfast, Jesus said to Simon Peter, "Simon son of John, do you love Me more than these? He said to Him, "Yes Lord; You know that I love you." He said to Him, 'Tend My Lambs.'" He said to Him again a second time, "Simon, son of John, do you love Me?'

He said to Him, 'Yes, Lord; You know that I love You."

He said to him, 'Shepherd My sheep."

He said to him the third time, "Simon, son of John, do you love Me?"

Peter was grieved because He said to him the third time, Do you love Me?" And he said to Him, "Lord, You know all things; You know that I love You."

Jesus said to him, "Tend My sheep.'

Song 3: Holy, Holy, Holy (Anya, pre-recorded music)

Song 4: Amazing Grace (Anya, piano)

Pastoral Prayer (David)

Sermon text.

Romans 9 | God's Plan for Israel and the NT Church

Intro –

Pro-Palestine Ralley in Wenatchee. Taking place all over the world. Anti-semetic rheortic.

Bracket in the understanding of Rom. 9-11 with the whole book and ch. 8 and 12.

Address the principle of God's promises to Israel and God's promises to the NT Church.
Relation to current events.

Ten direct references to the OT Promises of Salvation of Israel that are eternal promises then now and in the future.

We also see that these promises are not just for Israel but also for the NT church (a new work of God after the resurrection of Christ).

To understand this chapter, and really all three chapters, 9,10,and 11. A clear picture of OT history and prophecy.

So let me give you as detailed an understanding of OT prophecy I can give you. Let me give you the summary on OT history and prophecy summed up in two words; Jesus Christ!

Rev. 19:10 'brethren hold the testimony of Jesus; worship God. For the testimony of Jesus is the spirit of prophecy.'

There is a spiritual component to all the Bible and in all the prophecy in the Bible. That is the Spirit of Jesus Christ. The Spirit of God. The Holy Spirit.

In one respect all of the prophets in the OT are telling the same story in different times and different places.

The story of God's mercy and God's hardening.

The story of God's plan for judgment and God's plan for redemption.

The Good News of the Gospels is that that summation of judgment and redemption is given to us in the life of Jesus Christ.

But it is troubling because the Jewish people reject this. And we see this trouble here in Revelation 9.

Jump to chapter 11 quickly just to bracket us in and then we will get to chapter 9.

God HAS NOT rejected His people and He never will.

Q: Why do we still see the Israelites despite persistent and historic persecution?

Canaanites, Hittites, Amorites, Moabites, Edomites, Perizzites, Girgashites, Jebusites, the Philistines, the Babylonians, the Assyrians – on and on and on.

None of them exist! All of them have been wiped out. But also, all of them persecuted the Israelites. **Who remains?**

1 reason – God has promised through Divine Covenant that He would always be faithful to His people – and we can always trust in God because God never changes.

God perseveres His people. Always. Q: 'What then shall we say? If God be for us who can be against us?

God is always Good. God is always faithful. God is always true. God never changes. God is always faithful to His promises – 'for His namesake'

Now, all earthly opposition to Israel is Satanic. ALL.

Those opposing forces were raised up in God's Divine Plan, but it was Satan who inspired their hearts to hate God's people. That is the case today.

Islam is a Satanic religion. The works of Islam to persecute and to harm God's people is Satanic. Yet God in His plan is allowing Satan to have a time and persecuting his own people. You see this in all of the prophetic books as well. God will deliver them.

The current persecutors of Israel will be immediately broken. They will be ground to dust.

Yet – as it is for Israel disobedience does have consequences.

Deut. 28 – Look at.
Blessing and Curses.

God never breaks His promises.

Ch. 9-11 Give us the understanding of How Israel and the NT church fit in together in God's plan of redemption.

- I. **Rom. 9:1-5** 'I am telling the truth in Christ, I am not lying, my conscience testifies with me in the Holy Spirit, that I have great sorrow and unceasing grief in my heart. For I could wish that I myself were accursed, separated from Christ for the sake of my brethren, my kinsmen according to the flesh, who are Israelites, to whom belongs the adoption as sons, and the glory and the covenants and the giving of the Law and the temple service and the promises, whose are the fathers, and from whom is the Christ according to the flesh, who is over all, God blessed forever. Amen.'

Q: Why is Israel so important to Paul?

Paul is an Israelite. Paul was selected to be an apostle of Jesus Christ and Paul is an apostle sent from Jesus to the Gentiles.

Paul

'I am telling you the truth' – life is this simple, just tell the truth. Leave it at that. If you have the truth you have a hand full of aces. If you do not know the truth, then seek it, you will find it. If it is closed, knock and it will be opened. Paul tells the truth withing **two qualification**; in Christ and in the Holy Spirit.

'my kinsmen' – nothing hurts like the hurt of lost family members. Paul is living this. The family members that are deceived, hardened, living in 'a spirit of stupor' – This grieves Paul. A rejection of Gospel truth is what divides a family. Families are united or divided based off their belief system.

Common confession builds common unity in the common family.

'everyone who confesses Me before men, I will confess him before My Father who is in heaven. But whoever denies Me before men, I will also deny him before My Father who is in heaven. Do not think that I came to bring peace on earth, I did not come to bring peace, but a sword. For I will set a man against his father, a daughter against her mother, and a daughter-in-law against her mother-in-law, and a man's enemies will be the members of his household' **Matt. 10: 32-34** The Gospel unites in its grace and divides in its Truth. Those who reject Gospel truth will never be yoked together.

'to whom belongs' – it belongs to this family/Israelites to be sons, to be in the glory, to be in the covenant, the church services, the promises of God, the direct connect to their ancestry – but they are cut off for their rejection of the Older Brother, Jesus Christ.

All of those promises in Rom. 8 – those are promises for the Israelite people first. The Gospel was first for the Jew and then for the Greek.

Paul has been faithful to bring the Gospel to the Greek nations in 13 epistles. But at the end of his life it still grieves him the lack of positive response from the Jewish people.

- II. **Rom. 9:6-14** 'But it is not as though the word of God has failed. For they are not all Israel who are descended from Israel; nor are they all children because they are Abraham's descendants, but: **"THROUGH ISAAC YOUR DESCENDANTS WILL BE NAMED."** That is, it is not the children of the flesh who are children of God, but the children of the promise are regarded as descendants. For this is the word of promises: **"AT THIS TIME I WILL COME, AND SARAH SHALL HAVE A SON."** And not only this, but there was Rebekah also, when she had conceived twins by one man, our father Isaac; for though the twins were not yet born and had not done anything good or bad, so that God's purpose according to His choice would stand, not because of works but because of Him who calls, it was said to her, **"THE OLDER WILL SERVE THE YOUNGER."** Just as it is written, **"JACOB I LOVED, BUT ESAU I HATED."**

4 OT Principles used here by Paul to highlight Israel's historic position in Christ.

The promise has not changed. The means of salvation is no different. It has never been by works. It has never been by outward appearance.

Salvation has always been by faith. It has always been a means of God's grace. The purpose of circumcision was always a matter of the heart and not the flesh.

God's Love and God's Discipline are always tied closely together in Scripture.

The promises of God's love to Israel is always connected to His fatherly discipline of them.

Prov. 13:24 'whoever spares the rod hates his son, but he who loves him is diligent to discipline him'

This is an important principle of Godly love. It builds.

Look at the situation; Who is God disciplining because that is the place God is demonstrating His love.

Puritan quote 'Lord, I have gone the whole day without an unjust criticism or rebuke, what have I done wrong'

Define Disciple: Control gained by enforcing obedience or order. Orderly or prescribed conduct or patterns of behavior.

Look here at these examples. **Q:** Who did God discipline and who did God turn over to their own devices?

Isaac and Ishmael?

Israel and Assyria?

Sarah and Hagar?

Israel and Babylon?

Jacob and Esau?

Peter and Judas?

Moses and Pharaoh?

Paul and the Pharisees?

David and Saul?

You and I, Our church, Our nation.

There is a big difference between being disciplined and being destroyed.

Israel has never been destroyed and never will be.

Look what Paul says in **Rom. 8:31-39 (The Great Benediction of Christ's love)**

Has God disciplined us or abandoned us?

In the current events of Israel and middle east opposition; Who is being disciplined and who is God allowing to act with impunity?

If God allows a person to act with impunity it is not a license of God's love. It is a curse.

Paul moves to the principle of God's Divine Providence in all events.

Q: By God's Providence who is He disciplining unto a righteous life and who is He hardening?

III. Rom. 9:15-18 'What shall we say then? There is no justice with God, is there? May it never be! For He says to Moses, **"I WILL HAVE MERCY ON WHOM I HAVE MERCY, AND I WILL HAVE COMPASSION ON WHOM I HAVE COMPASSION."** So then it does not depend on the man who wills or the man who runs, but on God who has mercy. For the Scripture says to Pharaoh, **'FOR THIS VERY PURPOSE I RAISED YOU UP, TO DEMONSTRATE MY POWER IN YOU, AND THAT MY NAME MIGHT BE PROCLAIMED THROUGHOUT THE WHOLE EARTH.'** So then He has mercy on whom He desires, and He hardens whom He desires.'

Mercy is a key marker of God's love and discipline.

Define Mercy:

God is so loving that His discipline only last for time. Not forever. God is sweet and gracious to His children and He fulfills His promises to through through He overarching love to discipline them into a lifestyle of His mercy.

God is hardening totally Hamas and others who have stood against Israel.
Israel's hardening to the Gospel of Jesus is only a partial hardening. It is not in full.

Look at their life; Does it look like a lifestyle resting on the mercy of God or does it look like a lifestyle given over to every wind of doctrine?

Here is a simple observation; In prayer, does the person even ask for God's mercy?

18x in the book of Exodus it says that Pharaoh's heart was hardened. Pharaoh is not an Israelite, He is the Egyptian leader opposing the Israelites.
10x in those 18 is that God hardened his heart.

What happened to Moses, Aaron, all the Israelites? They were exited from Pharaoh's pagan nation and disciplined through 40 years of wilderness and then received the Divine Promise of Israel.

Why does God do this? 'FOR THIS PURPOSE I RAISED YOU UP' – "TO DEMONSTRATE MY POWER IN YOU'

God is going to demonstrate His power through both positive and negative world events.

God's Providence is working out His mercy to those He will fulfill His promises to. That includes Israel, the NT church, and all believers who have put their faith in Jesus Christ.

Rom. 10:9 'if you confess with your mouth and believe in your heart that Jesus Christ'

We see this distinction in Nation, in Church, in personal life through what Paul calls Vessels of Mercy and Vessels of Wrath.

IV. Rom. 9:19-26 'You will say to me then, "Why does He still find fault? For who resists His will? On the contrary, who are you, O man, who answers back to God? The thing molded will not say to the molder, 'Why did you make me like this,' will it? Or does not the potter have a right over the clay, to make from the same lump one vessel for honorable use and another for common use? What if God, although willing to demonstrate His wrath and to make His power known, endured with much patience vessels of wrath prepared for destruction? And He did so to make known the riches

of His glory upon vessels of mercy, which He prepared beforehand for glory, even us, whom He also called, not from among Jews only, but also from among Gentiles. As He says also in Hosea,

'I WILL CALL THOSE WHO WERE NOT MY PEOPLE, 'MY PEOPLE,' AND HER WHO WAS NOT BELOVED, 'BELOVED.' AND IT SHALL BE THAT IN THE PLACE WHERE IT WAS SAID TO THEM, YOU ARE NOT MY PEOPLE, THERE THEY SHALL BE CALLED SONS OF THE LIVING GOD.'

In this passage 'Not my people' is referring to the Gentiles who will hear and believe the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

This is what becomes the NT church. It is what we call the church today.

All who call Jesus Christ, Lord and Savior, are children of God. Vessels of God's mercy.

Yet

V. Rom. 9:27-33 'Isaiah cries out concerning Israel, ***'THOUGH THE NUMBER OF THE SONS OF ISRAEL BE LIKE THE SAND OF THE SEA, IT IS THE REMNANT THAT WILL BE SAVED; FOR THE LORD WILL EXECUTE HIS WORD ON EARTH, THOROUGHLY AND QUICKLY.'*** And just as Isaiah foretold, ***'UNLESS THE LORD OF SABAOTH HAD LEFT TO US A POSTERITY, WE WOULD HAVE BECOME LIKE SODOM, AND WOULD HAVE RESEMBLED GOMORRAH.'***

What shall we say then? That Gentiles, who did not pursue righteousness, attained righteousness, even the righteousness which is by faith; but Israel, pursuing a law of righteousness, did not arrive at that law. Why? Because they did not pursue it by faith, but as though it were by works. They stumbled over the stumbling stone, just as it is written,

BEHOLD I LAY IN ZION A STONE OF STUMBLING AND A ROCK OF OFFENSE, AND HE WHO BELIEVES IN HIM WILL NOT BE DISAPPOINTED.'

The Remnant. The Posterity.

The Salt and Light of the earth.

The Abrahamic Covenant.

Gen. 12:3 'I will bless those who bless you, and whoever curses you I will curse; and all peoples on earth will be blessed through you.'

This covenant has not changed and will not change. Our blessing and care for the Israelite people is in direct proportion to our faith in Jesus Christ.

Jesus Christ is the King of the Jews and the Lion of Judah. The scepter of Divine Leadership over His nation and His people will never change.

The Hope of God's Promises Fulfilled in Jesus Christ.

The Promises are first for the Israelites. They are all fulfilled in the person and power of Jesus Christ.

Jer. 29:8-14 'Do not let your prophets who are in your midst and your diviners deceive you, and do not listen to the dreams which they dream. For they prophesy falsely to you in My name; I have not sent them,' declares the LORD.

For I know the plans that I have for you,' declares the LORD 'plans for welfare and not for calamity to give you a future and a hope.

Then you will call upon Me and come and pray to Me, and I will listen to you. You will seek Me and find ME when you search for Me with all your heart.

I will be found by you,'

I will restore your fortunes and will gather you from all the nations and from all the places where I have driven you

I will bring you back to the place from where I sent you into exile'

God is so Good!

God's attributes of Goodness can be woven together in His promises to give fatherly discipline, undeserved mercy, and unending love.

These attributes of discipline, mercy, and love make the Spirit of God concrete in our life as we look for the hand of God.

God knows the way and God is bringing about every circumstances of life. Every world event, to discipline Israel, discipline His church, and discipline His children. Why?

Because God is going to have mercy on Israel, God is Going to Have mercy on His church, and God is going to have mercy on His children. Why?

Because God loves Israel. God loves His church. And God loves His children.

God loves us so much that 'He sent His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him will not perish but have eternal life.' John 3:16

Today, if you want a personal relationship with Almighty God. The Creator of Heaven and Earth.

A loving father, who will correct you, perfect you, and direct you.

A loving father who will protect you from all manner of evil, who will cause all things to work together for your good

A loving father who has plans for your well being and His churches well-being.

All of this is given to us by His grace in Jesus Christ.

By placing your trust in the LORD Jesus Christ, God will move providence to merge your life into all of the promises that He will bring about for His chosen people.

Pastoral Prayer.

The Promises God gives to His children in Jesus Christ.

Song 5: What a Friend We Have in Jesus

Song 6: Jesus Paid It All

Closing Prayer. (Vance)

Small Group Questions.

1. What is the importance of Israel and what is our connection to Israel as NT believers?
2. Why is Paul so grieved by this situation?
3. Have a discussion about Paul's 10 OT illustrations of God's mercy and God's hardening?
4. What is the difference in God's providence of having mercy on some and hardening others? How does this connect to God's enduring promises?
5. How can we see God's attributes played out by His sovereign determining of those who are Vessels of Mercy and those who are vessels of wrath? Are we moldable clay?